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Hurricane Sandy grounds 12,000 US flights

NEW YORK (AFP) - More than 12,000 flights have been grounded as Hurricane Sandy thwarted travel up and down the US East Coast yesterday with powerful winds and blinding rain that could linger for days.

That number is expected to grow as the slow-moving "Frankenstorm" churns its way inland after making expected landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey yesterday evening.

Along the way the storm will encounter a cold front coming down from Canada that could whip up as much as three feet of snow.

Tens of thousands were stranded as the mega storm's impact on air travel was felt as far afield as Asia and Europe, ruining holiday plans, delaying business trips and likely keeping scores of parents from getting home in time to take their children out for Halloween on Wednesday.

Some 8,344 flights were cancelled on Sunday and Monday as airlines prepared for the storm, according to flightaware.com.

A further 3,726 flights have already been cancelled for today and 298 on Wednesday.

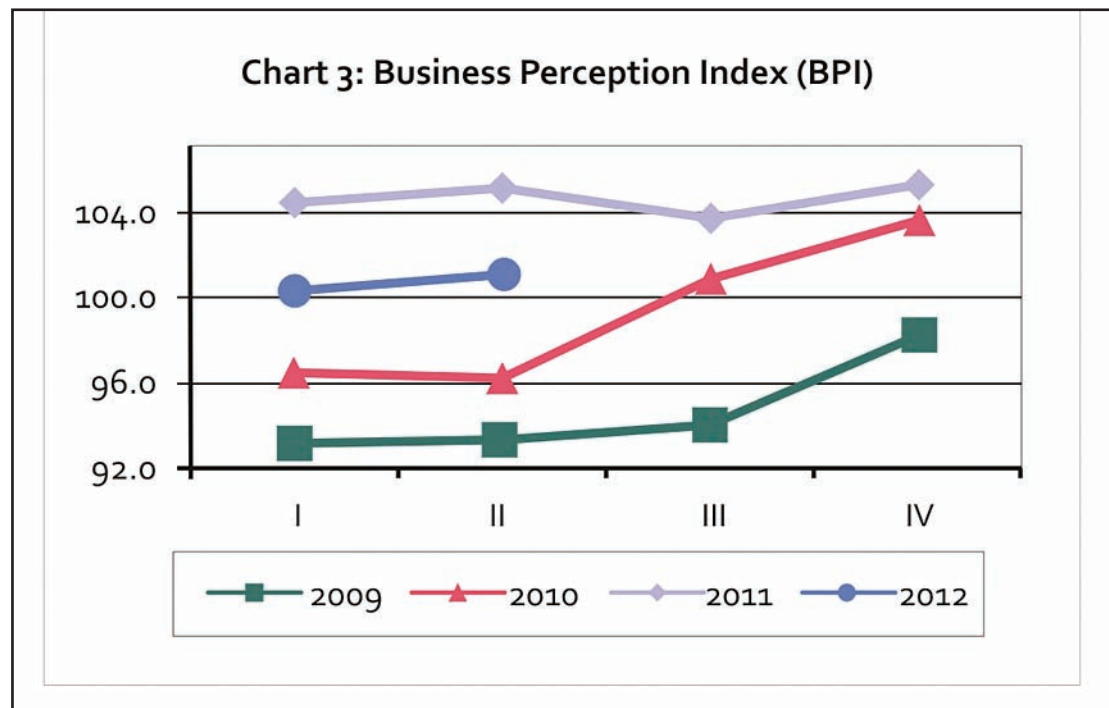
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KFC @ Palm Beach



KFC SOGOOD

Aruba Central Bank Survey indicates growing economic positivism



ORANJESTAD -- The results of a survey conducted by the Central Bank of Aruba in the second quarter of the year indicate a growing optimism about the economic conditions of Aruba in the short term. The survey also captured a more positive perception with respect to the future of Aruba.

The index of the economic situation has risen from 0.4% to 100.1 in the second quarter of 2012. This when compared to 99.7 in the first quarter, gives an indication of indisputable positivism.

The figures with respect to the near future have risen to 1.4% compared to the past quarter. The figures supplied by Central Bank also include those of 2009. This shows that the level of confidence in 2012 is greater than that of 2009, namely a total of 10% greater. While the index for short term business perception in 2009 was 90.0, in 2012 this has increased to more than 10% and climbing to almost 102.5.

Central Bank's report states: "The results of the Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the second quarter of 2012 indicate that businesses became more optimistic about the current and short term future economic conditions in

Aruba, as the index on the current economic conditions moved to slightly above neutral, while that for the future became more positive".

The figures register an improvement both in the actual situation as well as in the expectations and confidence in the future. In 2009 the index was below 100, showing that the economic perspective was heading in a negative direction. But, in view of the figures of this year's quarter being above 100, this indicates a convincing positivism regarding the Aruban economic climate.

The survey reveals positivism in wholesale sales, re-

tail, in the financial arena, hotel and restaurant areas. Central bank's report states:

"The responses to the survey's questions on profitability indicate the positive sentiment of business about the current economic conditions, as 67.7% percent of the respondents reported that profits were observed (annex 7). The highest profit surges were noted in the wholesale and retail trade, financial intermediation, and hotel & restaurant sectors". The Aruba Central Bank's report closes with the comment: "Altogether, on balance business gained a more positive outlook in the second quarter of 2012".


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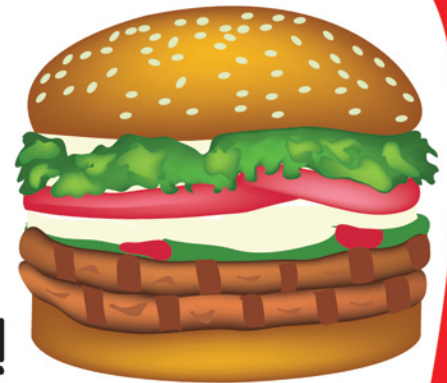
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Breakfast entree! Burgers, Fries.. & More!

THE VILLAGE PLAZA
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Aruba 2012 Chess Challenge



SANTA CRUZ -- This year the Aruba Chess Federation is celebrating 66 years of existence and in order to celebrate this special occasion, the Federation is organizing the 6th edition of Aruba Chess Challenge. This will be the only international chess tournament in Aruba.

This will be a great opportunity for our local chess players, big and small, to come and measure forces with local players and players coming from Suriname, Venezuela, Bonaire and Curacao. Of the 4 countries, several players have already registered. This tournament promises to be an unforgettable experience!

The 2012 Aruba Chess Challenge is scheduled to

take place on November 2, 3 and 4th at Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Santa Cruz.

Games will be played in 3 categories: 1. Open Group, 2. Youth Group-18, and 3. Youth Group U-12.

PRIZES:

1. Open Group: 1st place \$600, 2nd place \$400, 3rd place 200,

Best local player \$100, Best Female player \$100, Best unrated player \$50.00.

2. Youth Group U-18: 1st place trophy, 2nd place trophy, 3rd place trophy.

3. Youth Group U-12: 1st place trophy, 2nd place trophy, 3rd place trophy.

Continued on page 5

Sunday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Slot Tournament \$1000
Monday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS** all day
Tuesday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Black Jack Tournament \$500
Wednesday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Cool Casino - **LADIES NIGHT**
Thursday **Cash Raffle Awg 10.000,-**
Friday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Black Jack Tournament \$500 28th \$1000
Saturday **Balloon Raffle \$500,-** Earn Triple **POINTS** all day 10 am-6 pm



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Management reserves the right to discontinue this promotion at any time

Aruba Waterpark-FINALLY, affordable family fun!

Heaven knows, Aruba has a climate and environment that begs for a waterpark, but has been unsuccessful so far in presenting a proper facility for all ages. The owner and engineer of Aruba Waterpark, sitting in the shadow of the Hooiberg, designed a fun place with eight great slides from kiddy to killer, surrounded by breathtaking vistas.

Not only does it offer frolicking in the fresh water, but



has an extremely clean, attractive and CHEAP restaurant. Hamburger and hotdog platters are at local prices, as is excellent BBQ and various local specialties prepared by the chef from what is fresh and nice at the market.

and \$8 for children. Those under two years of age or over 65 are free. All-inclusive packages for adults are available for only \$39 for unlimited food and beverages, including alcoholic drinks from the bar.

A \$13 ticket for children includes lunch, two drinks and ice cream.

A lot of clever planning went into this park. The family area has long, slower slides for little ones and extremely shallow waters.

Those who "take no prisoners" will love the deep dips of the "adult" section. It is thoughtfully laid out so the climb to the top is not a daunting flight of steep stairs, but a gradual and charming nature walk that



Soups, salads, and various stobas and local dishes are served in ample portions.

Best part of Aruba Waterpark is the price: \$11 for adults

doesn't wear you out. The park is situated on a natural outcropping over amazing views of Aruba for miles around.

Aruba Waterpark is open from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. They host a 2-for-1 Happy Hour on Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. There is no fee for entering the park to enjoy the sunset from their cheerful dining/bar plaza, with already inexpensive drinks discounted even more.

Never crowded during the week it is easy to find, just head for the Hooiberg. Call 585-0060 or visit their website: <http://www.arubavacationpark.com/aruba-waterpark> from more information and directions.





Tuesday

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Dutch navy intercept 840 kg cocaine



ORANJESTAD -- In an ambitious effort led by the HNLMS Van Amstel, Dutch Navy intercepted 42 bales during a counterdrugs patrol in the Caribbean. In close cooperation with the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard unit, the maritime patrol aircraft Dash 8, the ship disrupted a drugs transport of 840 kg of cocaine.

In the evening of October 26th the Dash 8 spotted a go fast close to the operation area of HNLMS Van Amstel. The Van Amstel launched its Rhib, a fast rubber motorboat into

the water, with on board the Law Enforcement Detachment of the US Coastguard which is part of the crew of HNLMS Van Amstel during counter drugs operations. During the pursuit the boat threw several bales into the water. While HNLMS Van Amstel pursued the go fast, a second Rhib was launched into the water to pick up the packages. HNLMS Van Amstel picked up 42 bales out of the water. A drugs test proved that the bales contained cocaine.

The successful action of HNLMS Van Amstel is in concert with the international operation Martillo aimed against the illicit drug trade. Since September this year

HNLMS Van Amstel is the Guard Ship of the Commander Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean. The Dutch Navy and Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard are an integral part of the international struggle against the illicit drug trade. Operation Martillo is a multinational collaborative effort to counter the spread of transnational organised crime in Central America. The operation is lead by the Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West, Florida and denies organised crime networks the ability to conduct illicit trafficking via air and at sea. The Commander Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean is part of the Joint Interagency Task Force South, as the subordinate commander of Task Group 4.4.



Aruba Bank committed to supporting Small/Medium Businesses

ORANJESTAD -- This year again Aruba Bank will be part of the 2012 Small Business Week conference as a Platinum Sponsor. The Aruba Bank, which has gained the respect and confidence of the Aruban community, has observed that there has been an increase in small businesses in recent times, hence has committed to continue their support to the development of small and medium size businesses through the Small Business Week conference. The Bank has noted that not only have small businesses grown, but that they have also become more innovative.

The 2012 Small Business Week is scheduled to take place here November 12 to 16 and Aruba Bank as sponsor will again host an interesting workshop. Gina Habibe, member of the management of Aruba Bank, explained that in the workshop they will be sharing valuable tips on areas that business owners ought to focus on, as well as on those areas a business owner needs to be careful about.



Habibe emphasized that the workshop will put the focus on those issues that a business owner should never engage in so as to avoid facing unpleasant surprises.

One of the themes to be presented for the first time at this Small Business Week conference is "franchising." According to Habibe, Aruba has experience with this type of business and that these businesses are very successful.

Continued on page 5

Aruba Tourim Authority honors loyal Aruba visitors

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring some very nice loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. These symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years (Distinguished Visitor) and 20 or more consecutive years (Ambassador of Goodwill). The following persons were honored:



Mr. Terry and Mrs. Stacey Martin from Panama City Beach Florida were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.



Mr. James & Mrs. Antoinette Santo and Mr. Ron and Mrs. Pat Bouchard were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Mrs. Edith Onusseit, Mrs Elizabeth Barry and Mrs. Rita Gips were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Arlene Rogovitz from Warminster PA, USA were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Mr. Joseph Amato and Mrs. Adele Metters from Willingboro NJ were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.



Mr. Michael and Mrs. Geraldine Varga from the Villages Florida were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Mr. Adrianus & Mrs. Sally Van Den Bos and Mr. Edward & Mrs. Patricia Baldasty were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Mr. Scott & Mrs. Denise Kerner and Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Rosemary Cavaliere were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.



Mr. Warren and Mrs. Ruthann Platz from Danbury Connecticut were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.



Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature music by the traditional Aruba caha di orgel, folkloric music, dance performance and brass band.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

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Aruba 2012 Chess Challenge

Continued from page 2

Opening Ceremony: Friday, November 2nd at 7:30pm

Schedule:

- **Open Group & Youth Group U-18:** 2 Nov. 8:00 pm 1st round, 3 Nov. 10:00 am 2nd round / 04:00 pm: 3rd round, 04 Nov. 09:00 am 4th round / 2:00 pm 5th round.
- **Youth Group U-12:** 3 Nov. 10:00 am 1st round / 11:00 am 2nd round / 12:00 pm 3rd round / 1:00 pm 4th round, 4 Nov. 09:00 am 5th round / 10:00 am 6th round / 11:00 am

7th round, 12:00 pm 8th round.

Closing Ceremony and presentation of prizes: November 4th at 6:00pm.

Registration: Tuesday October 30th from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Aruba Chess Federation in the Nieuwstraat 11, Oranjestad.

Registration fee for the Open Group is \$30.00, for Youth Group U-18 is Afls.15,00 and for the Youth Group U-12 the fee is Afls.10,00.

If for whatever reason

you're not able to register on the above date, please call Octavio Croes at 594-5590 or Maurits Dijkhoff at 740-5305.

All of Aruba and chess players are cordially invited to participate in this tremendous Chess Tournament.



Aruba Bank committed to supporting ...

Continued from page 3

Aruba has room for growth in the area of franchising.

This year's Small Business Week will be very interesting. They have planned a very varied program consisting of presentations by professionals in the realm of financing, fiscal and marketing. The information presented will be extremely valuable for small/medium business owners and for those contemplating start-

ing a business.

Gina Habibe and Aruba Bank cordially invite those who have a business or who want to start a business to be sure to attend this Small Business Week Conference. It will provide you with innovative ideas and help you develop your business, which in turn, will contribute to a growing economy for Aruba.



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday
12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



As Sandy gets closer to Long Island waves were beating the sea wall on Asahroken Avenue, which caused the police to close the road



Dark clouds are seen over the skyline of Manhattan.



Waters from Hurricane Sandy start to flood Beach Ave. in Cape May, N.J.

Two missing as Sandy sinks tall ship HMS Bounty

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A replica of the HMS Bounty that featured in Hollywood movies got caught in towering waves spawned by Hurricane Sandy yesterday, forcing the crew to abandon ship. Fourteen sailors survived but two remain missing.

The 55-meter (180-foot) three-mast ship, built in 1960 for the film "Mutiny on the Bounty" starring Marlin Brando that came out two years later, eventually sank in the fierce seas, its owner said.

This voyage, with the ship's permanent, paid crew, left from Connecticut last week and had been due to arrive in Florida on November 10, said Tracey Simonin, director of the ship's owner, The HMS Bounty Organization. The ship was off the coast of North Carolina when it radioed in a distress call Sunday night.

Before dawn yesterday, with the ship lacking power and taking on water and the crew unable to pump fast enough, they abandoned ship and took to two life boats in cold water with survival suits and life jackets, the US Coast Guard said.

Coast Guard helicopters ended up plucking 14 crew members out of the raging water. As of yesterday afternoon there was still no sign of the two missing crew members, Simonin said.

At the time of the rescue the Bounty was being buffeted by 40 mile-per-hour (65 kilometers-per-hour) winds and 18-foot (five-meter) waves.



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Obama urges Colombia rebels to lay down weapons

BOGOTA (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday urged leftist guerrillas to lay down their weapons and reach a peace deal with the government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos in an interview broadcast on local radio.

Colombia's government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels launched peace talks in Oslo on October 18 aimed at ending their nearly five decades of conflict.

"My hope," said Obama, "is that we can create a Colombia that is peaceful and prosperous, and that the FARC lay down its arms and recognize that, even though there are disagreements with the government, they should engage in a political process."

Obama, speaking to W Radio, said that the United States has "worked closely with the Colombian government for many years now to try to bring peace to Colombia, and we have seen significant

progress."

Colombia has received some \$8 billion in US military aid over the past decade in the so-called Plan Colombia, aimed at battling drug trafficking and rebel groups.

US officials have made it clear that Washington fully supports Bogota's effort to reach peace with the FARC.

"We're very... supportive of their effort to get to the peace that they deserve," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said on October 17.

"We're obviously not involved, we're not in the middle of it," she added. "But we are being briefed regularly by the Colombians."

Obama also said that the drug trafficking that helps fund the insurgency is not only a Colombian problem, and that it should be dealt with as a regional problem.

Obama acknowledged that work needed to be done to reduce the US demand for illegal drugs.

Hundreds of thousands without power

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hundreds of thousands of people were without power as Hurricane Sandy made landfall yesterday, lashing the US east coast with heavy winds and flooding, government figures showed. The US Department of Energy reported that between 500,000 and 750,000 power company customers were cut off, the furious winds of the storm knocking down trees, ripping down power lines and rains swamping other infrastructure. Power companies said they had mobilized more than 10,000 workers to remove fallen trees and restore lines, though it was not clear how much work could be done as the storm continued to intensify.



People walk across Beach Ave. as flood waters from Hurricane Sandy rush in.



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Visa checks useless against terrorists, says EU official

ATHENS (AFP) - The European Union should make it easier for foreign tourists to visit the bloc, a senior EU official said yesterday, arguing that ardent visa checks did little to keep determined terrorists out.

"I do not believe that visas can help check terrorism, because terrorists have European passports or in many cases forged passports," said Antonio Tajani, a vice-president of

the European Commission in charge of industry.

"The US have already modified their regulations for tourists arriving from Brazil and China. I believe that we should do more for Russians and Chinese, as the Russians mainly are affluent tourists," the Italian official said.

"This led to an increase to visitors for all of Europe, and for Greece specifically it led to an increase in travellers from

Russia, China and Turkey," said the bloc's Greek commissioner for maritime affairs, Maria Damanaki.

"There is now a discussion at the European Commission to make these measures more permanent and this is something that will help Greece," Damanaki said.

Tourism is one of the main pillars of Greek economy which is facing its worst recession in decades.

Alps murder victim had bank account linked to Saddam

BERLIN (AFP) - Saad al-Hilli, the British-Iraqi man killed alongside his wife and mother-in-law in a mysterious shooting in the French Alps last month, had access to a bank account linked to late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the German daily Bild reported on its website yesterday.

Citing a source with Ger-

man foreign intelligence service BND, Bild said that the 50-year-old victim's late father had run a Swiss bank account for Hussein's Baath party and that following the father's death last year, al-Hilli gained access to the account and its balance of some one million euros.

The source said BND had

been monitoring financial transactions between Iraq and the West for decades.

BND refused to comment on the matter to AFP.

French prosecutors said earlier this month that a Swiss bank account monitored by al-Hilli and opened by his father had not seen any movement in a long time.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Dutch coalition unveils 16-billion-euro austerity drive

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' new coalition government yesterday unveiled an austerity program aimed at saving 16 billion euros by 2017, in a bid to cut the country's deficit.

"Between 2012 and 2017, we will again ask of the Dutch an effort of 16 billion more euros (\$21 billion), which means 1,000 euros per Dutch resident," said Liberal VVD party head Mark Rutte at a press conference.

"It's necessary because our country is still living beyond its means," added Rutte, who is expected to stay on as prime minister in the coalition with the centre-left Labour PvdA party.

The two pro-European parties announced on Sunday that they had agreed to form a Liberal-Labour coalition.

The austerity drive, which

is expected to be put to debate in parliament in the coming days, will include reforms in health insurance, real estate, unemployment benefits and a reduction in development aid.

The aim is to rein in the country's public finances, after the Netherlands came under fire from its European partners when its deficit tipped to 4.7 percent of gross domestic product last year, above a three percent ceiling imposed by the European Union.

Talks on budget cuts led to the collapse of Rutte's government in April when his far-right parliamentary ally walked out of talks.

During the elections last month, which were seen as a test of Dutch anti-European sentiment, the Liberals obtained 41 seats while Labour took 38 out of a possible 150 up for grabs.

French search for British boy as father 'fears the worst'

ILE DE PORQUEROLLES (AFP) - The father of a British boy who disappeared at the weekend in a southern French island while riding his bike in gale-force winds said yesterday he feared the worst.

Rescue workers were searching the seas off the small Mediterranean tourist island of Porquerolles for 12-year-old Pierre Barnes who went missing on Saturday. The bicycle and his shoe were found by a creek.

His father Stephen Barnes told reporters: "We fear for the worst, but we still hope for his survival. But clearly the more time passes the less hope we have".

The boy had just arrived on the island with his English father, French mother and his two brothers and sisters when he went out Saturday on his bike as the winds barrelled at 130 kilometers (80 miles) an

hour.

"The only hope would be that he has moved to an hypothermic state and can survive several days, so we want the search to continue as long as possible to have the best chances to find him alive," the father said.

"I just hope we will find Pierre alive or his body. The worst thing is not to know and to be left weeks without knowing the outcome."

A rescue boat left yesterday morning to scour the seas off the island while three fire rescue craft with divers aboard searched the island's coastline, officials said.

French navy helicopter was also deployed while on the ground dozens of security forces and police officers carried out searches with dogs.



Health & Living

Please let there be no more

Dedicated to those who fought gallantly but did not succeed in the battle against breast cancer

As she pressed her dry
Lips on the forehead
With her trembling hand
She softly caressed the cold face

A face that is more beautiful
Than all the roses that surround her

It is quiet
All that's heard is the softly sobbing
Sobbing of an elderly mother
Saying farewell to her daughter



As she lay there
There was a look of tranquility
On her face
Silently a tear fell from a wrinkled cheek
Onto a rose
A rose that was cut in the prime of its bloom
Never would this rose bloom again
But her battle was fought gallantly until the end

As I gazed at this beautiful but sad scene
My thoughts drifted back
I was picturing all those young faces
Faces of young women that passed on
Young women in their prime
Young women who lost the battle
Against the dreadful breast cancer

As I stood with my silent emotion
There was a lump in my throat
I fell to my knees and whispered softly

Dear Lord it's me again
Don't be mad
Forgive me for knocking on your door
It's you I turn to when I am sad
It's a burden we can't carry any more

Dear Lord, actually I don't
Know what to say
But please, please Lord
Protect and guide them
Keep them out of harm's way
Please Lord let there be a cure
I know you can for sure

The church bells started to ring
The choir started to sing
They carried her through the door
Please Lord, "please let there be no more".

By: Roland W. Peterson



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British, Pakistani, UAE ministers visit Malala's in hospital

LONDON (AFP) - Pakistan's interior minister and the foreign ministers of Britain and the UAE visited the English hospital treating shot Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai on Monday.

Britain's Foreign Office said the trio also met with the father of 15-year-old Malala, who was shot in the head by the Taliban earlier this month as punishment for campaigning for girls' education, in an attack that shocked the world.

She was flown from Pakistan on October 15 for treatment at a specialist hospital in Birmingham, central England, in an air ambulance provided by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We are grateful to the hospital authorities, especially the doctors treating Malala, for taking care of her in a most professional manner. As a result, she has made very good recovery in the past few days," said interior minister Rehman Malik.

He expressed gratitude to Britain and the UAE for their support for Malala, who needs reconstructive surgery after a bullet grazed her brain in the October 9 attack, coming within centimetres of killing her.

"Malala's incident should not be seen in isolation," Malik said. "She is a symbol of courage and determination against the forces of extremist



ideology.

"The attack on her was also meant to tarnish the true face of Pakistan and to discourage those struggling for human liberties and for the democratisation of our society.

"Let me reassure our international friends that such acts of cowardice will not deter us, and the whole Pakistani nation stands behind Malala and her cause."

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Malala's swift recovery was an "absolute priority".

"The people of Pakistan have paid a high price from terrorism and extremism," he added. "We will stand by all those who, like Malala, are courageously defending the rights of women, in Pakistan and around the world."

Doctors say the bullet travelled through her head and neck before lodging in her left shoulder.

Before reconstructive surgery, she must fight off an infection in the path of the bullet and recover her strength, which could take months.



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Sci-Tech



A state-of-the-art yacht designed by Steve Jobs made its first public appearance in the Netherlands a year after the Apple founder's death. Dubbed *Venus*, after the Roman goddess of love and beauty, the 250-foot ship hit the water Sunday in Aalsmeer. *Venus* is steered by 27 iMacs in its control room. It has a lightweight aluminum exterior and its large paned windows are not unlike those seen in Apple stores. Jobs showed biographer Walter Isaacson his design for a "sleek and minimalist" yacht in the years before his death. His family was at the unveiling of the *Venus* in Aalsmeer, according to The



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The unmanned SpaceX capsule made a safe splashdown in the Pacific Sunday after successfully delivering its first commercial payload to the International Space Station. The capsule parachuted into the water after an 18-day mission to resupply the station. The mission -- the first of 12 planned trips in SpaceX's \$1.6 billion contract with US space agency NASA -- is a milestone for American efforts to privatize the space industry, aimed at reducing costs and spreading them among a wider group than governments alone. The capsule delivered about 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms) of cargo to the space station and is taking home 1,670 pounds (758 kilograms) of supplies, hardware and scientific tests and results. Owned by billionaire Paypal co-founder Elon Musk, SpaceX is one of several private firms working with the US space agency to send flights to and from the ISS, but SpaceX is the first to become operational.

Snow and gales hit Europe, four dead, two missing

PARIS (AFP) - Snow and gales hit France and Switzerland over the weekend, possibly leading to the death of a homeless man in Paris, while searches continued for a missing windsurfer and a 12-year-old British boy who vanished Saturday in the south of France while cycling in a gale.

His bicycle is reported to have been found but there are fears he was swept away by strong winds.

Freezing temperatures killed three men in their fifties in Poland. Quoted by the Polish press agency PAP police said that two of them had been under the influence of alcohol, and the third man was said to be

homeless.

The homeless man, a 59-year-old former foreign legionnaire well-known in the neighbourhood and said to be in poor health, was found dead in northern Paris where temperatures dipped to near zero Celsius (37 Fahrenheit) instead of the usual seasonal 7 Celsius (45F). He was thought to have died from the cold.

Hurricane-force winds lashed southern France, damaging a ferry off Marseille which slipped its anchor and hit a quay. The hull was holed and two watertight compartments flooded. The ship has a 15 degree list while waiting to be

righted.

Almost 30,000 households in the south of France were without power.

In Switzerland trees were toppled by high winds, rail services were interrupted and the emergency services received hundreds of calls as winter made an early appearance.

Almost 10 centimetres (four inches) of snow fell in some parts late Saturday night. Many drivers failed to anticipate the onset of winter and fit appropriate tyres and there were scores of accidents in the canton of Bern alone in a 24-hour period, though no serious casualties were reported.

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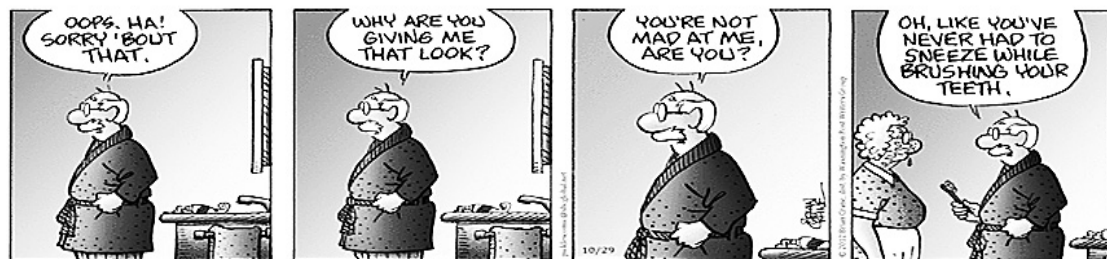


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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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OUT OF THIS WORLD

ACROSS

1. Fastener
6. Dairy animals
10. Snips
14. Hosiery thread
15. Fail to do
16. Inch, watt, or ounce
17. Cross the threshold
18. Item that falls from space
20. No longer are
21. Auto ornament
22. Dr. Scholl's item
23. ___ nerve
25. Emmet
26. Fiber cluster
27. Roman republican executive
29. Writer Faludi
31. Miss's neighbor

DOWN

32. Render unclear
34. Pep Boys' plethora
38. Wooden nickel
40. Cavalryman's weapon
42. Mohair source
43. Abominates
45. Harvest goddess
47. Auditor's inits.
48. Rutabaga, for one
50. Securing device
52. Maximum limit
55. Clean one's plate
56. Henriksen of "Aliens"
57. Garden pests
59. Eur. country
60. ___ time (never)

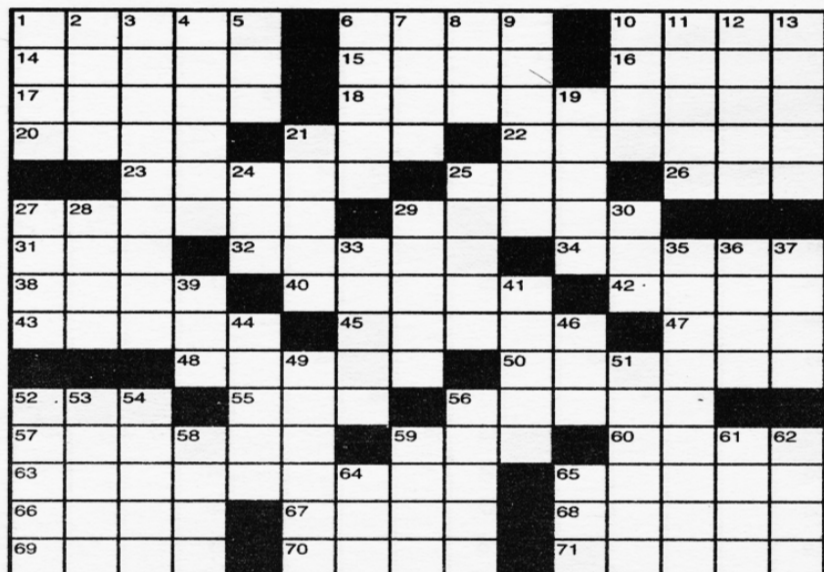
ACROSS

63. Mork's egg, e.g.
65. Suit of mail
66. Differently
67. Assuage
68. Clergyman Norman Vincent ___
69. Monopoly holding
70. Gold item on a perfect paper
71. Ferber and St. Vincent Millay

DOWN

1. Ball of yarn
2. Short note
3. NASA figure
4. "The City Never ___"
5. Each, informally
6. ___ relief
7. Seer's sign
8. After nit or

9. They adorn a rathskeller wall
10. Mutts
11. Strike caller
12. Dame, e.g.
13. Difficult to climb
19. Ready for use
21. Does a taxing 4/15 chore
24. Home for a rubber duck
25. Bit for a brace
27. "The Man in Black"
28. Stewpot
29. Temperate
30. Browbeat
33. Surface, to a lapidary
35. Elton John hit
36. Wrapper's aid
37. Piece of numerical info
39. "___ Shorty" (Travolta film)
41. Kingly
44. Like Carl Perkins's blue shoes
46. Saint, in El Salvador
49. Rhythm section instruments
51. Alarmed
52. In a box
53. Pome
54. Stage of development
56. Strider
58. Like some doughnuts
59. Italian tower town
61. Lopez's theme
62. Mine extracts
64. Take this off for the flag
65. Gibbon, e.g.



OCT 27 - NOV 03

O'stad : Botica Paradera N.V. - S.N : Serv. Seroe Preto N.V.

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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
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Care Center
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Numbers

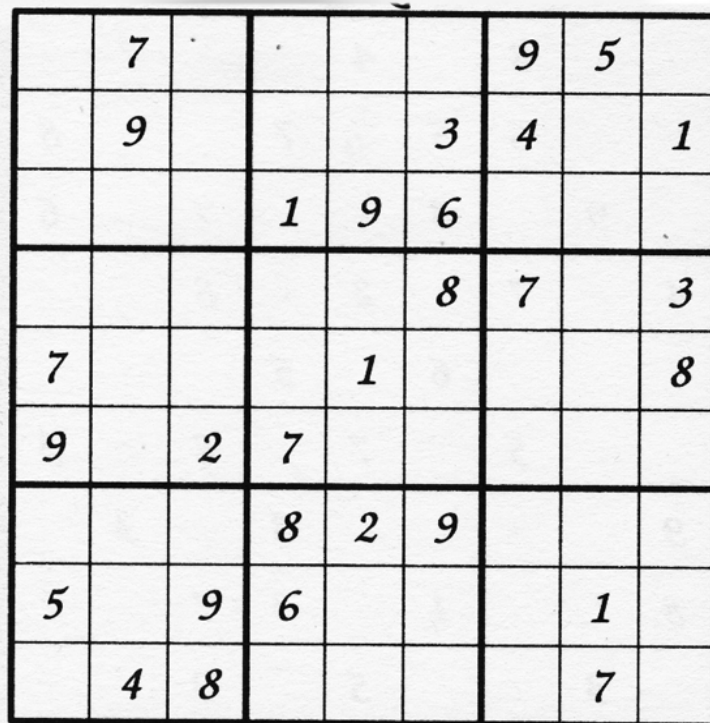
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

eBay to cut 235 jobs in PayPal restructuring

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - US Internet retail giant eBay said yesterday it would cut 235 jobs as part of a reorganization of its PayPal financial division to make it "more agile" with a simplified business structure.

The California firm also said it would cut about 120 contractors working with PayPal in the restructuring, a plan which calls for a \$15 million charge against earnings.

"The reduction results from a redesign of PayPal's product organization, consol-

idating nine product groups into a single, more agile organization," a company statement said.

"The intent is to simplify and speed up how products are developed. PayPal expects to continue its strong global growth momentum and leadership."

PayPal, which currently has more than 117 million active accounts, provides person-to-person payments online but also offers payment options for merchants and has been moving into digital wallets.

Chrysler nearly doubles profit in third quarter

CHICAGO (AFP) - Chrysler nearly doubled its profit in the third quarter as an improving economy and fresh models drew more consumers into its showrooms, the third largest US automaker said yesterday.

Net income jumped 80 percent to \$381 million as rev-

enues rose 18 percent to \$15.5 billion in the July through September period.

The strong growth comes just three years after Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy protection under the stewardship of Italy's Fiat.



NEW YORK -- Even before Hurricane Sandy causes any significant property damage, it is costing billions of dollars as businesses shut down along the storm's expected path. Economists say it will take a while to fully estimate the economic impact of the storm. But they believe the impact will be enough to lower the nation's gross domestic product, the broadest reading of the nation's economic activity, in the fourth quarter.

MONDAY'S Crossword Answer

TANG TAMER SOBS
OHIO ALONE LIRE
GALL SLADE ALIA
ABED MANOFSTEEL
WRAY KEDS
MAROON FLAIR
EMIRS MAID MOA
NICKELANDD DIMING
UNO ARGO PELEE
HACKS ASTERS
VIAL ASEEA
SILVERBACK LIST
ELIA CACHE MOLE
CLAN METER ALAN
TADA PRESS NAPS

Storm brings economy of US East Coast to a halt

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hurricane Sandy froze commerce, shut down stock exchanges for the first time since 9/11 and idled millions of workers yesterday, laying siege to an economy still trying to get out of first gear.

Businesses closed, refiners shut down operations and insurers girded for a leap in damage claims.

The New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq market shut completely yesterday and will stay closed today, with operations expected to resume tomorrow, "conditions permitting," the NYSE said.

It was the first full trading closure since the September 11 attacks closed US equity markets for four days in 2001, and the first full NYSE shutdown due to weather since September 1985, when Hurricane Gloria closed it for a day.

Disaster estimator Equecat forecast that the massive storm could cause up to \$20 billion in damages, only half of them insured, as it strikes land around New Jersey and collides with another weather front.

Gazprom is more interested in shale oil, than gas

Russian gas major Gazprom plans to develop the extraction of shale oil rather than shale gas in Russia, CEO Aleksey Miller has announced.

"In contrast to shale gas extraction, which is quite irrelevant for Russia, the tight oil production is of considerable interest to Gazprom Group and we will work actively on this issue," Miller said.



Current as of:
10/29/2012

| | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.76 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.79 | 2.84 | 2.90 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 189.89 | 190.61 | 191.41 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 227.64 | 229.72 | 232.03 |
| Sweden | SEK | 25.66 | 26.38 | 27.18 |
| Denmark | DKK | 29.83 | 30.55 | 31.35 |
| Norway | NOK | 29.86 | 30.58 | 31.38 |
| Japan | JPY | 221.68 | 223.70 | 225.95 |

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Ratings agency Fitch warns of threat from Kuwaiti unrest

PARIS (AFP) - The ratings agency Fitch warned yesterday that a surge in public unrest in Kuwait could threaten the Gulf state's solid sovereign rating.

"Recent popular protests suggest a radicalisation of the political scene in Kuwait," Fitch analyst Paul Gamble wrote, while noting that the oil-rich country's external balance "is the strongest of all Fitch-rated countries."

That meant the country's "AA" sovereign rating, the second-highest rating by Fitch, would withstand additional instability, Gamble said.

"However, a serious escalation of public unrest could threaten the rating. Much will depend on how the authorities respond, and whether large-scale violence is avoided," he added.

Over the weekend, 100 protesters were hurt in weekend clashes with police in Kuwait as the demonstrators defended the "universal right" to freedom of assembly.

Riot police used rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades and beat hundreds of demonstrators to break up the protest, which the opposition

described as the largest demonstration in the Gulf state's history.

The Kuwaiti opposition said yesterday that it would push ahead with protests until the government meets its demands for reform.

The political crisis was sparked by a decision by the country's ruler to amend the electoral constituency law ahead of December elections.

The opposition says the amendments are aimed at electing a rubber-stamp parliament.

Fitch estimated that "long-standing political grievances are unlikely to be resolved by the December elections, which opposition MPs and supporters are threatening to boycott."

It noted that a political stalemate could damage the Kuwaiti economy, with potential disruptions to the extensive public sector threatening execution of government projects and a 2010-2014 Development Plan.

If, however, Kuwait "manages to resolve the current stalemate it would confirm one of its ratings strengths compared with its regional peers," Fitch concluded.



US presenter Cooper sees TV talk show canceled



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US journalist and TV presenter Anderson Cooper's eponymous daytime talk show will not be renewed for a third season, its producers said Monday.

Flagging viewer numbers and a tough business climate were blamed for the effective cancellation of the syndicated show by Cooper, who also fronts a prime-time current affairs show on CNN, "Anderson Cooper 360."

"Anderson" is in its second season, and its producers had relaunched the program by airing it live and revamping its

format, but to no avail.

"We are extremely proud of Anderson and the show that he and the entire production team have produced," said a spokeswoman for Warner Bros and Telepictures, which produces the show.

"While we made significant changes to the format, set and produced it live in its second season, the series will not be coming back for a third season in a marketplace that has become increasingly difficult to break through."

"We will continue to deliver top-quality shows throughout next summer," she added.

Cooper himself said: "I am very proud of the work that our terrific staff has put into launching and sustaining our show for two seasons."

"I am also grateful to Telepictures for giving me the opportunity, and indebted to viewers, who have responded so positively. I look forward to doing more great shows this season, and though I'm sorry we won't be continuing, I have truly enjoyed it."

The Warner Bros spokeswoman noted that Cooper is far from the only TV star to struggle in difficult economic times. "Daytime syndication has become very challenging," she said.

"Established personalities such as Katie Couric, Ricki Lake, Jeff Probst have all failed to find an audience in the new season, while established veterans have seen their audiences shrink," she said, citing TV medic Dr. Oz.

"Ellen appears to now be settling in as the viewers' choice for daytime must-see," she added, referring to talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

'Skyfall' breaks 007's British box office record



LONDON (AFP) - "Skyfall" has taken more in its opening weekend at the British box office than any previous James Bond film, its producers said on Monday. Starring Daniel Craig as 007 for a third time, "Skyfall" has made £20.1 million (\$32.2 million, 25.0 million euros) in Britain and Ireland since opening in both countries on Friday, according to a statement on its website. "We are absolutely overwhelmed with the reaction to Skyfall this weekend," said producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli. "It is particularly thrilling as the UK is home to James Bond and it being the 50th anniversary year." Critics have declared the 23rd Bond film, starring Spanish actor Javier Bardem as Bond's latest nemesis, to be one of the finest in the suave British spy's 50 years on the screen. Directed by Oscar winner Sam Mendes, it opens with a spectacular chase scene in an Istanbul market but returns to home ground with a terror attack in London. The Bond franchise is one of the most successful in history, with the 22 other films released so far taking more than \$5 billion (3.85 billion euros). Bond was first transported from Ian Fleming's novels to the silver screen in 1962 with "Dr No", starring Sean Connery.

Affleck's 'Argo' tops N. America box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Argo," based on a true story about six Americans spirited out of Iran during the 1979-80 hostage crisis, topped North America's weekend box office takings with \$12.1 million, figures showed Monday.

In its third week of release, the film directed by and starring Ben Affleck jumped from the second to the top spot, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations. It has earned a total of \$60.5 million so far.

Second place went to the debut of the genre-busting, time-traveling "Cloud Atlas," in which Tom Hanks and Halle Berry each play six different roles set across a 500-year span, taking in \$9.6 million in ticket sales.

In third spot was the animated film "Hotel Transylvania" about an overprotective vampire dad intent on guarding his adolescent daughter against a budding romance with a human boy. The movie earned \$9.4 million.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!

Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years.

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You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the resort amenities of the Divi collection.

For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email: sales@diviarubaresidences.com

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

SPORTS

Football: Messi heads Ballon d'Or shortlist



PARIS (AFP) - Fresh from hitting his 300th career goal in a weekend swamping of Rayo Vallecano, Barcelona icon Lionel Messi heads a 23-strong shortlist for a fourth FIFA/France Football Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) award.

National team captains and head coaches plus international media representatives selected by the French magazine will determine who wins the accolade, with Argentina's Messi favourite to land the award again at a presentation on January 7.

A three-man final shortlist will be unveiled on November 29 along with the three-strong shortlists for best coach, best female star and best women's coach.

Messi has scored 73 goals for Barcelona in all competitions this year, leaving him just two short of Pele's 75 for Santos and Brazil in 1959.

He is also closing in fast on Gerd Mueller's all-time calendar year record of 85 for Bayern Munich and West Germany in 1972.

Messi's main rival again ap-

pears to be 2008 player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo but Spain keeper and fellow Real Madrid legend Iker Casillas is another strong candidate after his role in Spain's retention of their Euro crown.

Then there are Barcelona's mercurial midfielders Xavi and Andres Iniesta as well as Brazil's superstar Neymar.

Ivory Coast veteran striker Didier Drogba is also on the list after helping Chelsea win the Champions League.

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney is the only English player in the list.

Vying with Spain's Vicente del Bosque for the coaching accolade are Roberto Di Matteo of Chelsea; Manchester United's long-serving Alex Ferguson; former Barca coach Pep Guardiola; Jupp Heynckes of Bayern Munich; Jurgen Klopp of Borussia Dortmund; Germany's Joachim Loew; Roberto Mancini of Manchester City; Real's Jose Mourinho; and Italian handler Cesare Prandelli.

Juventus claim no conspiracy over Catania win

MILAN (AFP) - Juventus director general Beppe Moratta has moved to quash claims of a conspiracy after the Serie A champions' controversial win at Catania on Sunday.

"I agree that there was a refereeing mistake yesterday but there have been other mistakes in previous matches and last year Juve was on the receiving end," said Moratta.

"But we categorically reject any idea of a conspiracy, that Juve somehow affected the result yesterday."

Arturo Vidal's 57th-minute winner helped Juve extend their lead at the top of Serie A and took their unbeaten streak to 48 matches but the Sicilian side had earlier scored a perfectly good goal that was chalked off by the referee for offside.

Furious Catania president Antonino Pulvirenti was ordered off the bench and later complained that protests from the Juve bench had influenced the officials' decision to disallow the goal.

Pictures of Bergessio's goal showing he was not offside were splashed on the front of both Gazzetta dello Sport and Corriere dello Sport, Italy's biggest sports dailies.

The front pages also showed that for his goal Vidal was offside, reinforcing Catania's

claims that Juve had twice been given a helping hand by officials.

On what was an extraordinary day for controversial refereeing decisions, Lazio also complained after they finished their 2-0 defeat at Fiorentina with nine men, having also seen a goal knocked off.

Serbian Adem Ljajic gave La Viola the lead in first half injury time and despite Stefano Mauri levelling with a diving header in the 59th minute he was flagged offside despite Juan Cuadrado appearing to play him onside.

Lazio coach Vladimir Petkovic praised Fiorentina but felt aggrieved by the referee's decision not to award Mauri's goal.

"The goal was clearly not offside," he told Sky Italia. "I also failed to understand some of the cautions (yellow cards) we had, but overall we should have done better."

The incidents have raised questions over the standard and professionalism of refereeing in Italy, prompting a reaction from the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) president Gianni Petrucci.

"The referees are working hard and mistakes sometimes happen," said Petrucci, who praised Petkovic's reaction as an example of fair play.

Transport needed to US for young pups



Love dogs? Aruba Animal Relief Foundation (AARF) is looking for volunteers to transport young pups to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Minneapolis, Minnesota or Chicago, Illinois. At the airport other volunteers of AARF will be waiting to take over the dogs. AARF will take care of all the costs. It easy, lots of people have transported already for us, plus the pups are adorable company. Are you up for it?

If you can help, please call Kathy at 594-4453.



Serena Williams; The best is still to come

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Even after 15 Grand Slam titles and at the age of 31, Serena Williams says the best is still to come, after ending a remarkable comeback season with the WTA Championships title she first won over a decade ago. If Williams' prediction is right, then the achievements of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who each won 18 Grand Slam titles, may be within her reach. That has only been bettered during the open era by Steffi Graf, who won 22. Williams has won the Olympics, Wimbledon and US Open titles



in the last four months -- a dramatic turn-around from a 12-month absence in 2010 and 2011 in which she suffered from a badly cut foot and life-threatening blood clots on her lungs. Though she is only world ranked three, behind Sharapova and the year-end world number one Victoria Azarenka, the American is likely to become the bookies' favourite to win the next Grand Slam, the Australian Open in January.

NFL: Trade deadline pushed back

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NFL on today said it had pushed its trade deadline back 48 hours to Thursday because of the disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The deadline for teams to agree on player swaps had been set for Tuesday, but the league decided to allow more time in part because several teams suspended operations as the deadly hurricane approached the US east coast.

NFL offices in New York were also closed for Monday and today, which would have made it difficult for the league to process any trade paperwork.

The storm, a deadly combination of a tropical hurricane rolling north from the Caribbean and fierce wintry winds approaching from Canada, was expected to leave tens of millions without power, and trigger coastal and river flooding. Ground and air travel was severely disrupted as local, state and federal officials urged those living in the storm's likely path to take adequate precautions.

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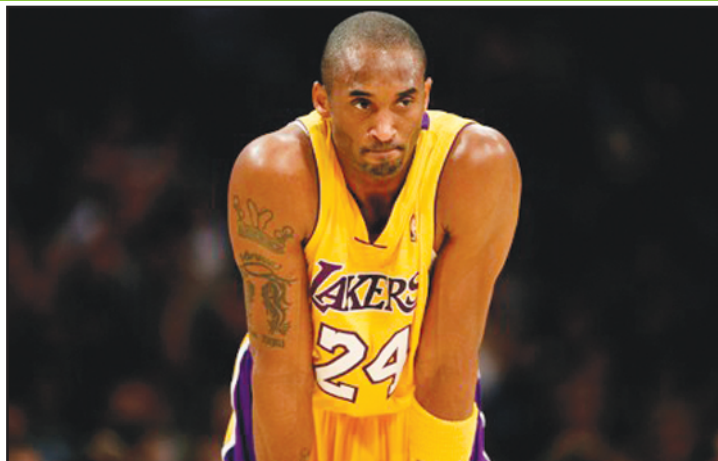
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NBA: Bryant, Lakers chase milestone titles

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Los Angeles Lakers and superstar Kobe Bryant are chasing twin milestone titles as the 67th NBA season opens today, counting on two key additions to help them regain Western Conference supremacy.

With one more title, the Lakers can match the Boston Celtics' record of 17 NBA crowns, while Bryant could match Michael Jordan's six career championships.

At 34, Bryant has been to the NBA finals seven times. With more than a thousand regular-season games under his belt -- and with the Lakers still feeling the sting of their



five-game second-round play-off ouster by the young Oklahoma City Thunder last season -- the club have spared no expense in bringing in big man Dwight Howard and veteran point guard Steve Nash.

The Lakers will pay their players \$100 million this season, plus tens of millions more in luxury tax for the privilege.

"It's a big investment made in the team," said Spain's Pau Gasol. "Everybody has a lot of expectations about the team. We ourselves have a great desire of accomplishing all those expectations."

However, the build-up to Tuesday's season-opener at home to Dallas has been anything but smooth.

The Lakers went 0-8 in the pre-season, and Bryant is questionable for Tuesday's game with a strained right foot suffered in one of those defeats.

Whether the infusion of more star talent pays off with a title depends on how well those talents mesh and whether they all stay healthy.

Howard is one of the top defenders in the league, but he arrived from Orlando still seeking full fitness in the wake of back surgery that forced him out of the London Olympics.

Nash, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player, has

never won an NBA title, and in fact never played in the finals.

The 38-year-old Canadian, who has spent much of his league career trying in vain to get the Phoenix Suns past the Lakers, says he's looking forward to life on the other side.

"It is one of the marquee franchises in our league and has a great franchise history," Nash said of the club. "Those are characteristics you can't say about every club. That's something that I feel proud to be part of and excited to hopefully continue the legacy."

Bryant insists that chemistry won't be an issue.

"All the pieces fit," he said. "We all do different things. We all fit together naturally. We just have to keep doing the things we have been doing our entire careers."

The superstar starters rarely played together in the pre-season, and coach Mike Brown acknowledged that the team would have a few things to work out early in the regular season.

The wealth of talent assembled, however, meant the Lakers could put up wins even before they hit their peak, Brown said.

By the time the second half of the season and the playoffs roll around, everything should be in place for a serious title challenge.

NFL's week #8



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, center, is stopped by Pittsburgh Steelers nose tackle Casey Hampton, right, and cornerback Keenan Lewis (23) in the second quarter on Sunday, in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh won 27 from Washington 12.



Running back Matt Forte #22 of the Chicago Bears runs the football against the Carolina Panthers on Sunday, in Chicago. Chicago won 23 from Carolina 22.



Matt Ryan connected on three first-half touchdown passes to lead Atlanta to a 30-17 victory over Philadelphia Sunday that saw the Falcons remain the NFL's only unbeaten team.

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Baseball: Giants win World Series in sweep over Tigers



DETROIT (AFP) - Crafting a World Series sweep with masterful pitching and clutch hits, the San Francisco Giants won a second Major League Baseball title in three seasons Sunday with a 4-3 victory over Detroit.

The Giants routed Detroit four games to none in the best-of-seven final and after a 2010 Series triumph over Texas won the club's seventh championship overall, five of them coming before the team moved from New York in 1958.

Ryan Theriot, who won a World Series last year with St. Louis, scored the title-winning run for the Giants in the 10th inning on a single by Marco Scutaro, who made the key hit two days before his 37th birthday.

Theriot singled to right field, advancing to second base on Brandon Crawford's sacrifice bunt and raced home on a two-out single by Scutaro, who has played for six different clubs in 10

major league seasons.

"It was fitting for him to get the game-winning hit," Bochy said. "Those two did a great job for us."

Giants relief ace Sergio Romo entered in the bottom half of the 10th and struck out leadoff hitter Austin Jackson, pinch hitter Don Kelly and Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera for the last outs to ignite a victory celebration.

San Francisco became the 21st team to capture the

throne in a sweep and kept the Tigers searching for their first World Series crown since 1984.

"I'm a little bit flabbergasted to be honest," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "I would never have thought the Giants would have swept us, but it happened. It's a freaky game. It happened. So be it."

San Francisco third baseman Pablo Sandoval was named Most Valuable Player of the World Series.

The Venezuelan slugger nicknamed "Kung Fu Panda" blasted three home runs in

waiting for the opportunity so I pulled everything together."

The Giants were often on the brink of elimination in the playoffs, winning the last three games of their first post-season series against Cincinnati then needing to take the last three against St. Louis to reach the World Series.

"When our backs are on the wall, that's the time when we're having fun," said Sandoval.

San Francisco had not trailed in 56 playoff innings, winning the last three games of the National League finals



the Giants' game-one triumph and had 24 total hits in the playoffs including six homers, five doubles and 13 runs batted in during the title run.

I was ready for the moment," Sandoval said. "I was

and the first three World Series games by a combined run total of 32-4.

That post-season streak without trailing was the second-longest run in major league history, behind only a 60-inning stretch by the 2004 Boston Red Sox.